

~~TOP SECRET~~

1203

GENERAL

1. French propose Western conference on Austria--The French Government has proposed to the US and the UK that a conference be held soon on a governmental level to consider Western policy in Austria in the event that a treaty is not concluded. The French favor strengthening the internal authority of the Austrian Government and propose a considerable reduction in the administrative duties of the occupation authorities. In conclusion, the French point out that they do not contemplate the reduction of occupation troop strength and stress that they do not wish to prejudice the treaty negotiations, weaken the quadripartite system, contribute to the partition of Austria, or give the impression that the Western Powers are seeking a separate treaty.

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State Dept. review completed

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